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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed

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28 August 1965

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

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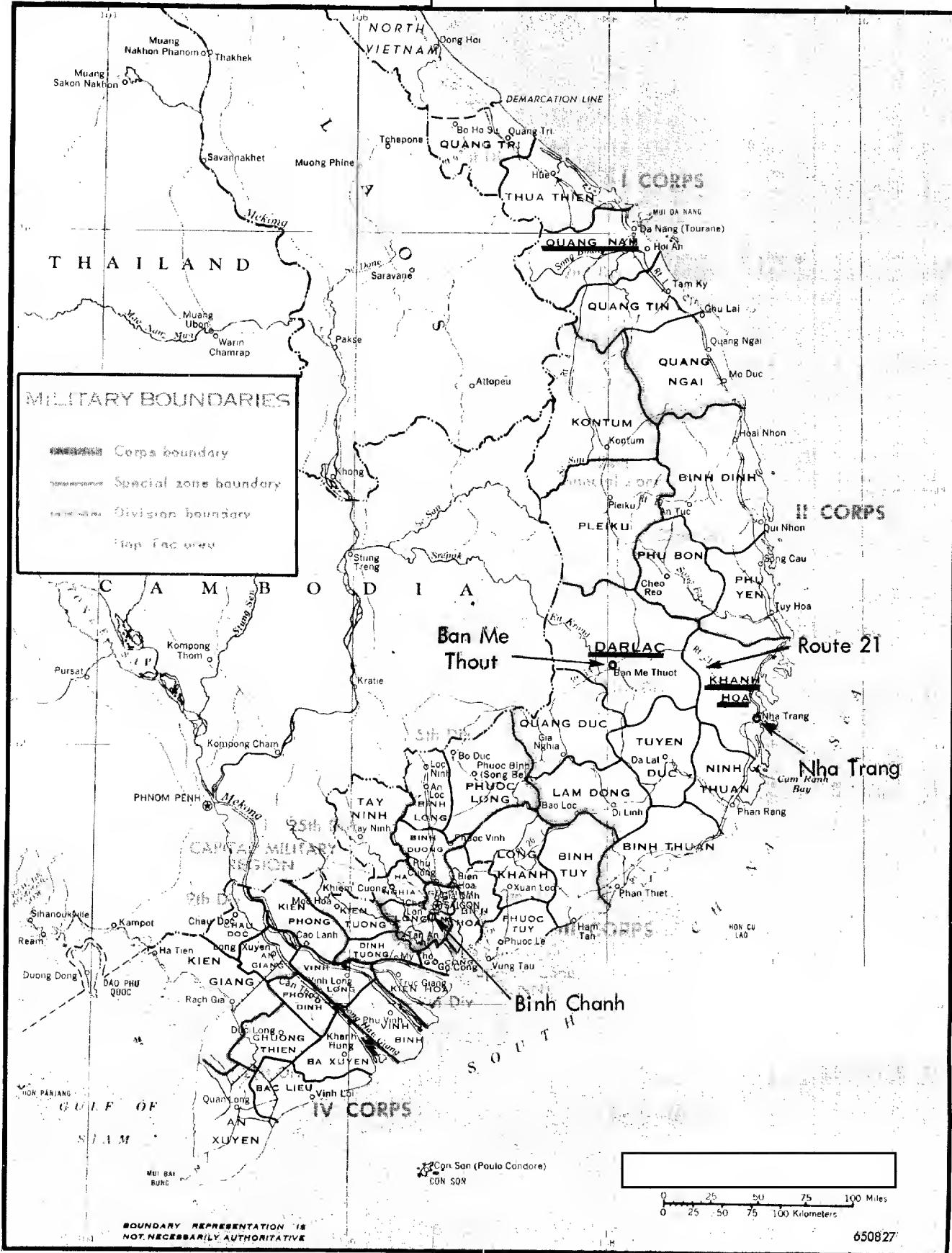
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SOUTH VIETNAM



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28 Aug 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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28 August 1965

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: [An estimate of the current military situation drafted by the US Mission Intelligence Committee in Saigon has concluded that Viet Cong goals for 1965 have been frustrated by failure to attain significant success during the summer campaign. A discussion of enemy alternatives for possible future actions indicated that only limited reinforcement of the Viet Cong--the infiltration of one or two additional PAVN divisions--would offer prospects of sustaining insurgency on a scale which could test US determination to continue the war. Lesser measures would seriously hamper Viet Cong morale and would allow the military initiative to pass entirely to Vietnamese government and US forces, while more extreme courses of action would strain present logistic capabilities and involve risks of substantially widening the war.]

In current military developments, a four-battalion government search and destroy force operating in Phong Dinh Province evidently suffered heavy casualties in a day-long battle with the Viet Cong on 27 August. Fragmentary reports from the field place government losses thus far at 59 killed, 153 wounded (three US), and two missing. A helicopter was also lost. No reports of Viet Cong casualties are yet available.

The renewed Viet Cong campaign in areas near Saigon continued yesterday when enemy forces attacked and overran a government outpost 12 miles southwest of the capital, resulting in heavy losses to paramilitary defenders. A simultaneous mortar bombardment of the

nearby district town of Binh Chanh, however, caused relatively few casualties. Government relief forces dispatched to the area evidently made contact with the Viet Cong, but results have not yet been reported.

The two attacks followed a recent National Liberation Front broadcast of an appeal by its chairman, Nguyen Huu Tho, urging the encirclement of Saigon through sabotage, road interdiction, and the attacking of isolated outposts.

On the government side, a road-clearing operation in Khanh Hoa and Darlac Provinces met with little Viet Cong opposition and successfully reopened Route 21 from the coastal city of Nha Trang to the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot.

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